

With
**GEORGE
FOWLER**

IT'S touch and go whether 2004 will be a fourth successive record year for car sales. However, one firm is already celebrating, because Hyundai had already sold more cars by the end of October this year than they did in the whole of 2003. Out of a total of 32,631 so far, the star performer has been the brilliant little Hyundai Getz, with Britons buying up 13,423 of the things. Another car in demand is the excellent Hyundai Coupé, which outsold both the Toyota Celica and Audi TT by clocking up 4,334. New SUV, the Tucson, sold 1,079 in just two and a half months, followed by the Santa Fe, Matrix and Trajet. This January sees the arrival of the great looking new Coupé, so things could get even better.

earns its



I'LL RAV SOME OF THAT: New 4x4 is stunningly equipped

Toyota's luxury Rav to rave over

THIS is good value? It's the new top-of-the-shop Rav4 from Toyota, and it's called the XT5.

Well, that's how you'd say it, but for some imbecilic reason Toyota write it like this ... XT5. How bloody annoying is that?

Oh well, a daft name doesn't make it a daft car. All XT5s (doesn't that look stupid?) are four-wheel-drive and come with a massive range of kit that turns them into luxury off-roaders.

In no order at all there's full

leather trim, heated seats, satellite navigation, anti-glare rear-view mirror, silver kick-plates, climate control, lecky sunroof, CD-stereo with steering wheel controls, 16-inch alloys with locking nuts, roof rails and fancy matching colour-coded bumpers, along with four brake and engine safety systems.

Prices start at £17,245 which, I suspect, means that by the time the XT5 goes on sale on December 1, there will already be a substantial waiting list.

GIVE US A STEER

Q WHEN do manufacturers have to comply with the introduction of daytime running lights – like those fitted to Volvos and Saabs – and when is driving with lights on going to be compulsory in the UK?

A As far as we know, there are no plans to make either measure law.

Scandinavian cars use them because their days are shorter and darker than ours. However, using dipped lights during daytime in winter makes you more visible to other drivers, especially when overtaking.

Q I'm looking for a large diesel estate for around £7,000. Is there anything you recommend?

A Several models are well suited to your needs. The Peugeot 406 2.0 110bhp estate is modern and economical – your budget should pick up an 01/51 with 40,000 miles.

Or there's the Mercedes C-Class. £7k buys a 66,000-mile C220D Elegance, with a five-speed

auto box, on a 1998/R plate. The Merc is older, but will depreciate more slowly and has a reputation for solid reliability. If you're going for a car with higher mileage, try to find one with the reassurance of a full Mercedes-Benz service history.

PARKER'S CAR GUIDES

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FASTER FIESTA:
The ST goes like a bullet and is great on the inside, too

door-pulls, while ST badges are stitched into the leather sports seats.

The three-stack CD-radio unit is silver, and set on a shiny black wood-alike background, while the instruments, with silver surrounds and black faces, have matching ST badge red needles.

All the surrounding trim is taken up by four different mottled-effect surfaces, and when the whole picture is put together the result is smart, racy, bright and not in the least bit tacky. It's great.

Stuffed

Now if you open the ST's bonnet you won't see any daylight down there. And that's because it's stuffed full of a 2.0-litre Mondeo unit, that's been tweaked up to 147bhp. Not bad for a Fiesta.

Start the engine and you can hear the exhaust burbling away at the back. So you do what every ST owner will do, and floor it.

The result is electric, as 0-60mph comes up in a shade less than eight seconds.

This little monster rockets off, wailing all the way to 7,300rpm as it hits 40 in first, 65 in second and 90mph in third. There's still two gears left and 130mph on offer, but

in the twisty hills of Northern Italy, where the car was launched, that didn't seem like a good idea.

In mid-range there's instant power on offer, making this a seriously quick machine, while the noise from the engine is harsh, but still sporty.

Ford chose the same area to show off the fabulous handling of the new Focus and for obvious reasons they stuck with it for the Fiesta ST, which stands for Sports Technique.

This really is a sharp car. The steering is quick and positive.

It reacts well to every flick and despite the lump under the bonnet it displays huge levels of grip.

The gear-change is short and neatly clunks into position, so you just point and fire.

Over bumpy surfaces its stiffened-up suspension makes it bounce around quite badly, but on normal roads the ride is quite smooth for a pocket rocket.

Overall, considering this type of performance, and an average 38mpg, it's excellent but there were also a few things that annoyed me.

On right-hand-drive models your left knee is constantly jammed into the bottom of the dash, and the seat

belt holders are so far back you have to twist right back to reach them. Worst of all, though, the windscreen pillars are too wide and obstruct your view round bends. It's a fault with a lot of new cars these days.

Even so, though, I really liked the Fiesta ST.

It's fast, it's fun, it's well-made and it's perfect for the youngsters it's aimed at.

Shame they won't be able to afford the insurance. It'll be a nightmare.



■ The numbers 05 could easily be mistaken as the letters OS, so when the 05 registration hits the streets next March you'll probably see quite a few wacky plates. However, if you've already thought one up, you don't have to wait until then. In fact the DVLA start selling them on December 1, starting at £499. If there's something special you want you can view it on www.dvlaregistrations.co.uk or you can order it on 0870 6000 142.

■ Meanwhile, here are a few I thought of that could be worth considering: AP05TLE (vicars); BL05SOM (flower sellers); B005TED (turbo drivers); CL05ING (shop-keepers); CL05EST (loved ones); CL05ETS (pervs); CR05SES (Ryan Giggs); FL05SED (dentists); GH05TLY (ghosts); LO05EST (Ulrika Jonsson); RO05TER (Bernard Matthews); SL05HED (George Best, Chris Evans) and finally TW05OME (me and 'er).

MOTOR MOUTH

EXTRA

Edited by
GEORGE FOWLER

ESTATE OF THE
ART: New A6
Avant has power to
match its looks

Audi's new animal

WE call them estates, Audi call them Avant (whatever that means), Peugeot badge theirs as SW (which they say means absolutely nothing at all), while BMW have the cleverest line of all in "Sports Tourers".

Well whatever you call them, an estate is an estate. They're practical, they're great at towing caravans, or putting labradors in the back, and they look like bungalows.

At least, most of them do, but not this one. It's the new Audi A6 Estate (sorry Avant) which is

so scary and aggressive at the front that you'd probably feel like pulling over and letting it past anyway, even if it was towing a caravan.

It goes on sale around next February, with prices starting from my guesstimate of £26,000 for a 2.4-litre and rising to around £44,000 for a ludicrous 335bhp 4.2-litre V8, which hits 0-60 in less than seven seconds and has a limited top speed of 155mph.

So whether it was towing a caravan or not, you'd still get overtaken.

Ford boss fury at 'joke' survey

FORD chairman Roger Putnam has thrown a foul-mouthed fit over a survey that branded some dealers guilty of shoddy work.

The furious UK boss even condemned the Consumers Association as "a load of bastards", after they conducted an undercover operation into garage servicing.

Out of 48 garages they investigated, selling new or used motors, the CA claimed that three out of four had missed faults and not carried out work properly.

One Ford garage, Sky Ford of Croxley Green, Herts, finished near the bottom of the survey with a rating of "below par", but Brooklyn Ford, in Redditch, Wores, finished near the top and was labelled "very

■ By DAVID THOMAS

good". But Putnam claims the CA chose the motor trade because it's an easy target, after High Street banks refused to let them investigate the way they treat customers.

He stormed: "This is a complete joke. They just picked on a few garages out of thousands and called it a survey."

Effort

"If they knew how much effort we put in to making sure our servicing is top rate, they'd have to think again."

"When you're dealing with hundreds of thousands of people each day you're bound to get the odd complaint, but they expect to find complete perfection. As far as I'm con-

cerned they can stuff their survey, and if they expect any help from me they can forget it. It's a load of bollocks."

The CA remain firm about their findings. A spokesman said that many garages missed basic faults and poor workmanship was commonplace.

He added: "A widespread trick is carrying out work that doesn't need doing."

"About a quarter of the garages we looked at did this to some extent, while a huge 67 per cent of garages failed to pick up pre-existing faults in cars, such as nails in tyres."

"Another 69 per cent failed to spot faults deliberately introduced by investigators, such as split windscreen wiper blades. Several mechanics skimped on basic essentials like checking the brakes."

"This type of practice means garages service more cars and make more money - but it may leave motorists with potentially unsafe cars."

Renault, Toyota, Nissan, Vauxhall and Peugeot dealers also fared badly in the survey.

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NEW car prices in the UK have gone up by 3.1 per cent over the past year, averaging £402 per car, according to used car experts Glass

Biggest increases have been in the compact family hatchback range (Astra, Focus, Megane, etc), where prices have risen by 5.9 per cent. People carriers (Galaxy, Sharan etc)

have gone up by five per cent, but large executive models, such as the Audi A6 and BMW 5 Series have seen their list prices remain unchanged over the past year.

The only sector to see a fall is 4x4/SUVs, such as the RAV4. New car prices have gone up each year since 2000, but increases are now higher.

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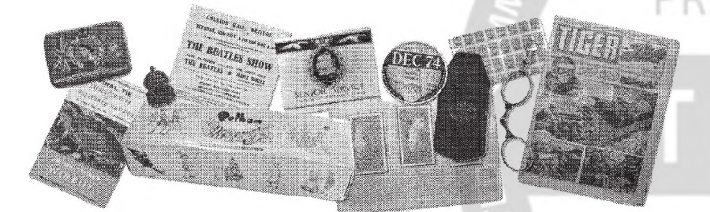
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It's the business

I would not join any club that would have me as a member – Groucho Marx.

Movers & groovers

LOST mobile phone chargers are getting a new lease of life at Threadneedle, the five-star hotel in a former bank in the City of London.

It passes them on to guests who have left their charger at home. Chargers have become the dominant lost property item at the hotel on Threadneedle Street, which attracts high-flying, but forgetful, corporate travellers. "We take the attitude that lost chargers are communal property," said Peter Tyrle, MD of hotel owner Eton Group.

INTERNET service provider PlusNet yesterday signed a two-year sponsorship agreement with Championship club Sheffield Wednesday, from June.

Lee Strafford, PlusNet chief, said: "Our association with such a well-supported club as the Owls will further extend our profile both nationally and in the region."

Kaven Walker, Commercial Director of Sheffield Wednesday added: "This is a perfect deal for Sheffield Wednesday, both commercially and in terms of corporate identity."

"Our partnership with PlusNet brings together two significant Sheffield businesses which have achieved success at a national level."

COMPUTER giant Apple will open its first store in Europe in London's Regent Street tomorrow.

Its billionaire boss Steve Jobs said: "This new store will provide millions of people with the opportunity to experience Apple's newest products like iPod photo and the iMac G5."

With 99 shops worldwide, Apple stores have hosted more than 51 million visitors since the first store opened in May 2001.

FORMER Littlewoods Stores chief Susan Murray has been appointed a part-time director at **SSL International**, the firm that owns Durex.

Murray, 47, who is also a non-executive director at Britain's biggest pubs group Enterprise Inns, is a former president of vodka maker Smirnoff, part of the Diageo group.

THE DEALER

Profit on the cards

CLINTON Cards believes it can succeed where a slew of venture capitalists have failed.

The High Street greetings cards and gifts specialist has snapped up rival **Birthdays Group** from Tom Hunter's **West Coast Capital** in a deal worth £46.4 million.

West Coast had owned the group for a mere 15 months after buying it from **SI, Permira** and **PPMV**.

The acquisition is a major

deal for Clinton, which has more than 800 shops. Birthdays has 500 stores and a further 100 **Partyland** franchise stores, and will take Clinton's turnover to more than £500m.

Clinton Cards chairman Don Lewin said the two businesses were a good fit.

But a spokesman for Hunter acknowledged West Coast had not been able to turn the business around. Clinton Cards saw its shares rise by 6.5p to 94.5p.

Bookie feelin' Blue

THE new football season has got off to a bad start for bookmaker **Ladbroke's** as punters enjoyed a run of good fortune thanks to **Chelsea**.

Parent company **Hilton** yesterday said the London club's success on the pitch combined with other European results meant more winners at its 2,000 Ladbroke's shops.

"The UEFA results haven't been very good to us, but England losing to Spain was probably a bit of good news," said finance director Brian Wallace.

He said he expected the gross

win collected by the company to halve to 7% in the second half of the year.

There was better news from telephone and internet betting where profits doubled in the four months to the end of October.

Ladbroke's performance, outlined in a trading update, overshadowed an improvement at the hotels division and sent Hilton shares dropping 10 3/4p to 258 1/2p, topping the FTSE 100 fallers.

Revenues per available room, the key measure of hotel income, rose by 2.3% in October, including 4.2% in London.

HOT GOSSIP

KEEP an eye on marketing and conferences firm **MICE Group**, 3p better at 55.5p, which is ushering in a new era by splitting chairman and chief executive roles between Mike Curley and Brian Shepherd.

Miller Lite looks tasty

THE continued obsession with low-carbohydrate diets in the United States plumped up profits for brewer **SABMiller** in the first half of the year.

Chief executive Graham Mackay said a double-digit growth in Lite sales overcame a decline in sales of the group's full calorie flagship Miller Draught.

But he added the success of Lite was unlikely to be repeated elsewhere in the world, where its lack of flavour was unlikely to win many fans.

Lite is proving a key plank in SAB's strategy to turn around Miller, which it bought for \$5.6 billion (£3bn) in 2002.

Mackay said the company was enjoying strong growth around the world.

Merger

It has 120 brands, including Peroni, Pilsner Quell and Castle Lager, in 43 different countries, but is still keeping its eye out for further acquisitions.

Finance director Malcolm Wyman said the company had a war chest of \$4.5bn.

The company has been linked with a break-up bid for a proposed merger between Canadian brewer **Molson** and US giant **Coors**.

Another possible acquisition is **Scottish Newcastle**.

Pre-tax profits at the company rose by 80% to \$1.2bn on turnover that rose 14% to \$7.2bn.

The shares rose 23p to 870p.

WHO'S DEALING

SHARES in IT firm **Fayrwood** fell 12 3/4p to 134 1/4p yesterday after executive chairman Peter Casey dumped 1.367 million shares, 3% of the firm, at 140p. Director David Kleeman sold 250,000.

GUS boomoms

THE Gus DIY chain Homebase is taking on Ikea, MFI and DFS in the booming £13billion furniture market.

Homebase is bringing out a furniture catalogue at 15 stores, with 12 of the stores stocking a limited range.

It will assess the popularity of the new offering next autumn and roll it out nationally if it's a winner.

John Peace, chief executive, said: "Furniture is a big and growing market and the attraction is it is a fragmented market place."

The expansion into sofas, dining tables and chairs follows Homebase's success with bathrooms and kitchens, which have been a key driver of sales growth.

Competitive

Gus bought Homebase in 2002 and said yesterday the cost savings at the DIY chain would be more than double initial expectations in the year to 2006.

Business at Gus's catalogue store Argos has continued to boom, with sales up 13% in the first half.

Argos is keeping up pressure on prices by running weekly promotions ahead of Christmas. Last week, prices of wide screen TVs were cut by 20%.

Terry Duddy, chief executive of Argos Retail, said: "Christmas was going to be tough, we planned good promotions and we are set for the rest of Christmas being reasonably competitive." But he advised:

■ BY STAR REPORTER

"Prices will not necessarily come down any more so it is best to get out and buy now."

Portable DVD players, priced at £99, and Robosapiens robot toys at £63.99 are expected to be the top Christmas sellers.

Gus flagged up a slowing consumer market in October, as gas bills rose and interest rate hikes took effect.

And Duddy added: "We have planned ourselves to work through this slowing of growth."

But he reported no downturn in demand for expensive products, which electrical goods' retailer Dixons recently expressed caution about.

"We have seen incredibly good growth in big-ticket items, for example the kitchen and bathroom markets are massively up year-on-year at Homebase and in Argos, furniture and wide-screen TVs have also been fast-growing product groups and they continue to be."

Gus' first-half pre-profits jumped to £323million from £247m last year as profits across Homebase, Argos, Gus' credit checking business Experian and majority-owned luxury goods rose.

Shares closed up 4-1/2p at 875p.



TOP SELLER: The £63.99p Robosapien

FTSE100 SHARE INDEX ▲ Up 9.40 points (+0.20%) at 4805.30

Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	High	Low				
3i Grp.	645	+3	686	529	1470	Camival	294.6d	-13	3050	1866	2568	Kingfisher	298	-	317	270	1030	SAB	870	+23	847	537	4718
A.B. Food	729	+4	725	562	1082	Centrica	246	+1	252	188	1818	Land Secs	1214	-7	1221	948	1033	Sage Grp.	187	-1	207	155	6601
Aldi Group	520	+2	523	404	1000	Compass Group	240	+2	385	213	753	Legal&Gen	109	-	109	87	1036	Sainsbury(J)	271	-	359	242	1050
Alliance & Leic	879	-	7	915	795	Conus Group	53	-1	56	29	4530	Lib Int	884	-3	883	650	7640	Schroders	687	-2	735	535	1415
Alliance Unicom	715	+12	702	488	6022	Daily Mail	756	-	780	582	3973	Lloyds Tsb Grp	430	-6	476	391	6395	Schroders NV	622	-6	668	496	2917
AMVESCO	327	+1	460	251	1124	Diageo	744	-6	780	657	1059	M&A Group	1426d	+16	1856	1155	7896	Scot & Newcastle	421	+2	444	361	1421
Anglo	1293	+2	1420	1072	4849	Dixons Grp	154	-4	176	129	1020	Mark & Sp	347d	+3	389	254	1039	Scot & Sun Energy	806	+15	859	637	6027
Aniollagista	1110	-20	1258	838	3438	Emp	810	-6	955	698	1186	Mmo2	116	+4	112	65	2100	ScotPower	396xd	+2	443	350	6023
Astrazeneca	2367	+3	2749	2100	1585	Ent Inns	614	-2	655	444	4713	Morrison (Wm)	227xd	-5	256	171	1253	Severn Trent	880	+4	931	700	4015
Aviva	587	+4	591	457	3388	Fed	735	-4	789	682	1366	National Grid	473	+12	486	379	4443	Shell	440	-	443	348	2935
BAA	587xd	+4	590	462	7389	Fisons Group	150xd	+2	157	123	7733	Next	1640	-11	1705	1079	1254	Shire Pharmad	541	+2	571	436	5200
BAE Sys	241xd	-9	252	159	1010	Gallagher Grp	715xd	-	717	582	2222	Nthn Rock	735	-	789	670	3555	Smith&Nephew	524	-2	614	438	1434
Barclays	574	-2	576	443	1004	GlaxoSmithKline	1189d	-19	1373	1042	1024	Old Mutual	125xd	+1	124	90	2782	Smiths Group	779xd	-3	782	619	1437
BG Grp	364	+2	380	275	7274	GUS	875	+4	912	715	1287	Parsons	635	-1	681	579	1374	Stand.Chart	1014	-2	1035	833	4887
BHP Bill	589	-3	621	432	2423	Hanson	430	-1	451	360	1030	Prudential	420	-2	533	386	7481	Tesco	259xd	+4	301	237	1055
BOC Grp	904	+8	949	791	1008	Hays	124xd	+1	145	111	6084	Reckitt Benckiser	1555	-18	1606	1238	1046	Tomkins	282	-2	287	241	1462
Boots Group	635xd	-1	752	596	1009	HBOs	747	+10	781	653	3333	Reed Elsevier	499	-3	542	445	1398	Unilever	489xd	+4	576	443	5983
BP	1011	-1	1011	886	1011	Hilton Group	258xd	-1	284	199	1942	Rentok Int	159	-	224	136	7779	Utili Utilities	545	-2	585	472	4010
BT	225	-2	225	199	6258	HSBC Hldgs	619	-	953	784	5562	Reiters Grp	400	+14	429	228	1047	Vodafone Grp	146	+3	149	114	3377
BT Amer.Tob	875	+2	883	702	1003	Imp.Chem.	233	-3	247	184	1032	REXAM	453	+2	467	403	1115	Whitbread	800d	-6	853	701	1498
BT Land	786	+2	786	548	1128	Imp.Tobacco Grp	1347	-2	1349	1054	1271	Rio Tinto	1539	-3	1574	1212	6889	William Hill	511xd	-6	559	375	4548
BVSys	548xd	+1	775	465	3382	Intercon. Hotel	681	-11	692	480	3729	Rolls-Royce	256d	-3	269	166	6441	Wolseley	942xd	+3	971	720	3288
BT Group	196	-1	199	169	1012	ITV	112xd	+4	148	94	2145	Royal Bank Scot	1652	-19	1764	1484	3219	WPP Grp	580	+3	643	469	3283
Bund	455xd	-8	478	388	1015	Johnson.Matth.	1025	+4	1055	841	1280	Royal&Sun All.	77xd	-1	109	68	7482	Xstrata	937	+7	939	570	3421
Cable & Wire	119	-	153	96	1015													Yel Grp	416xd	+4	417	289	1029
Casbury Sch	475	-7	478	388	1018																		
Cairn Energy	1523	+21	1532	366	3643																		
Capita Group	351	-3	370	224	5263																		

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£100,000	£458.33	£817.08	£687.89	£567.79	
£150,000	£687.50	£1225.63	£1031.83	£851.68	
£200,000	£916.67	£1,634.17	£1,375.77	£1,135.58	5.7%
£250,000	£1,145.83	£2,042.71	£1,719.72	£1,419.47	
£300,000	£1,375.00	£2,451.25	£2,063.66	£1,703.37	5.7%
£500,000	£2,291.67	£4,085.42	£3,439.44	£2,838.95	

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TOP TRAINERS (with runners) P Hobbs 50 winners, (19% strike rate), £67.18, M Pipe 47, (17%), £46.42, P Nicholls 30, (19%), £34.45, R Alner 18, (13%), £10.20, M Knight 15, (21%), £44.04, K Bishop 14, (19%), £23.52, A King 6, (18%), £33.32, I Williams 6, (19%), £10.73, Mrs S Williams 6, (13%), £57.20, J C Tuck 5, (9%), £9.00, C G Cox 4, (44%), £45.50.

1.20 willamhill.com NOVICES' HURDLE
Class D (8 flights) 2m1f (9 runners) £5,746

1-12	SAY WHAT YOU SEE (16)(B,F,G)	T Scudamore 106
1	KADAM (17)	
2	P Nicholls 10/12	R Walsh 21
3	KELTIC ROCK (191)	
4	J A Geake 5/10/12	P Flynn 21
5	MEADOW HAWK (4)(B*)	
6	I Williams 4/10/12	N Fehily 21
7	RACING DEMON (25)(B,F,D,S)	
8	MISS H NIGHT 4/10/12	W Marston 100
9	TANTERARI (260)(S)	
10	M Pipe 6/10/12	T J Murphy 74
11	THEME PARK (254)(T)	
12	S Burrough 4/10/12	S Stronge 21
13	THIEVES' GLEN (314)	
14	H Morrison 6/10/12	A Thornton 114
15	LOVELY LULU (227)	
16	J C Tuck 6/10/12	J Mogford 21

Star Betting: 13-9 Say What You See, 11-4 Racing Demon, 11-2 Thieves' Glen, 13-2 Tantarari, 10 Kadam, Keltec Rock, 33 Theme Park, 50 others.

2003: Ashley Brook, 5-10-12, (R Greene, 12-1) K Bishop, 16 ran.

STARFORM: RACING DEMON Danger: Say What You See

1.50 WILLIAM HILL ON 0800 44 40 HANDICAP HURDLE
Class D (8 flights) 2m1f (7 runners) £10,166

1-12	MISTER FLINT (7)(C,F,G)	P Flynn 94
1	P Hobbs 5/11/12	
2	BARRON LANDS (9)(D3,G,S)	
3	K Bishop 9/10/12	P J Brennan (3) 77
4	DOCE VIDA (145)(B,F,A,F,S)	
5	A King 6/10/12	W Hutchinson (3) 105
6	MURAT (274)	
7	M Pipe 4/10/12	T J Murphy 89
8	MONTE CINTO (18)(D,F,S)	
9	P Nicholls 4/10/12	R Walsh 83
10	ONCE SEEN (212)(S)	
11	O Sherwood 4/10/12	J A McCarthy 82
12	SOVEREIGN'S GIFT (517)(D,F)	
13	Mrs S Williams 8/10/12	A Tinkler (3) 21

Star Betting: 9-4 Mister Flint, 11-4 Monte Cinto, 4 Doce Vida, 9-2 Murat, 9 Sovereign's Gift, 20 Barron Lands, Once Seen.

2003: No corresponding race.

STARFORM: MISTER FLINT Danger: Doce Vida

WINDSOR ON BBC2 COMMENTARY ON 09055 141 602 (612)

TONY LEWIS

1.00 IN THE PARK	1.00 PHONE BACK
1.30 EVEN MORE	1.30 CURTINS HILL
2.05 KINGS BAY	2.05 KINGS BAY
2.40 MASTER REX	2.40 MONTE CRISTO
3.10 MONKHOUSTON	3.10 MONKHOUSTON
3.45 ATAHUELPA (nb)	3.45 ATAHUELPA

ROTTEWEILER: 1.00 In The Park 1.30 Curtins Hill 2.05 Kings Bay 2.40 Master Rex 3.10 Monkhooston 3.45 Monticelli.

GOING: Good

PLACEPOST: First six races.

1.00 ANAGLYPTA NOVICES' HURDLE
Class E (10 flights) 2m4f (9 runners) £3,650

1-12	DALON (17)(B)	James Davies (3) 21
1	D BEEK 5/10/12	
2	IN THE PARK (325)(B,F,S)	
3	JOJO O'NEILL 7/12	M A Fitzgerald 21
4	KITSGATE (15)	
5	Mrs P Robinson 7/12	J Tizzard 43
6	MAXIMUS (20)	
7	M Madgwick 4/10/12	R Lucey-Butler (7) 10
8	MEL IN BLUE (23)(G)	
9	R Waley-Cohen 6/10/12	Mr S Waley-Cohen (7) 10
10	OUR SAMSON (17)(G)	
11	G L Moore 4/10/12	P Hide 21
12	PHONE BACK (18)	
13	G L Moore 5/10/12	J E Moore 21
14	TROOPER KIT (16)(B*)	
15	Mrs L Richards 5/10/12	M Batchelor 21
16	ZAFFRE D'OR (629)	
17	O P Milner 7/10/12	C Leveque (10) 21

Star Betting: 13-8 In The Park, 4 Mel In Blue, 9-2 Our Samson, 11-2 Maximus 7 Zaffre D'Or, 16 Phone Back, 25 Kitgate, 33 others.

2003: He's The Boss, 6-10-12, (B Hitchcott, 5-1) R Buckler, 10 ran.

STARFORM: IN THE PARK Danger: Mel In Blue

1.30 VYMURA HANDICAP CHASE
Class D (18 fences) 3m (7 runners) £5,363

1-12	CURTINS HILL (24)(D,F,G,S)	J M Maguire 101
1	T George 10/11/12	
2	METAL DETECTOR (19)(D3,F,G,S)(P)	
3	K Bailey 7/11/12	P J McNamara 88
4	COUNT CAMPIONI (286)(D,F,G,S)	
5	M Pitman 10/11/12	B J Crowley 89
6	EVEN MORE (16)(B,F,D,F,G)	
7	R Alner 9/11/12	R Walford (3) 110
8	GLANAMANA (644)(D,S)	
9	B LAW 10/13	J Tizzard 21
10	MONTY'S DOUBLE (196)	
11	O Sherwood 7/10/12	O Nelmes (5) 98
12	TOMICH (13)(G)	
13	Miss A Newton-Smith 9/10/12	C Bolger (3) 21

Star Betting: 11-4 Count Campioni, 10-3 Curtins Hill, 4 Even More, 5 Monty's Double, 13-2 Glanamana, 10 Metal Detector, 16 Tomich.

2003: Ray Source, 8-10-7, (Paul Moloney, 10-1) I Williams, 5 ran.

STARFORM: CURTINS HILL Danger: Count Campioni

HOWARD JOHNSON added another high-profile horse to his County Durham-based string yesterday when leaving the Doncaster November Sales with Vodafone Derby fourth Percussionist at a cost of 340,000 guineas. Formerly owned by the Sangster family, Percussionist will now race in the colours of Graham Wyllie, who already owns the likes of proven performers Ingles Dwyer and Royal Rosa.

TOP JOCKEYS (with mounts) A Thornton 14 winners, (10% strike rate), £23.30, R Walsh 11, (22%), £12.76, T J Murphy 11, (12%), £1.82, P Brennan 6, (14%), £3.50, W Marston 5, (11%), £18.00, T Scudamore 4, (8%), £37.33, J A McCarthy 4, (8%), £22.75, R Young 3, (12%), £86.00, N Fehily 3, (7%), £10.00.

BBC2 2.25 WILLIAM HILL CHASE
(B) (17 fences) 2m7f (4 runners) £37,700

1-12	BEST MATE (246)(C2,D3,F,G,S)	T J Murphy 160
1	Miss H Night 9/11/12	
2	SEEBALD (17)(F,G,S)	
3	M Pipe 9/11/12	T Scudamore 138
4	SIR REMBRANDT (20)(B,F,G,S)	
5	R Alner 8/11/12	A Thornton 113
6	FRENCHMAN'S CREEK (937)(B,F,G,S)	
7	H Morrison 10/11/12	R Walsh 21

Star Betting: 8-13 Best Mate, 7-4 Sir Rembrandt, 16 Seebald, 20 Frenchman's Creek.

BEST MATE was undone by testing ground when beaten on his reappearance last term but no such reprieve is expected this time. Winner of the last three Cheltenham Gold Cups, Henrietta Knight's superstar will need to look to his heels this time as he reappears with Sir Rembrandt who he beat by 11 in the Ribblesdale (2m11yds gnd ch/soft) last month. Seebald is a sketchy jumper these days but did little wrong when beaten 5th receiving 18lb from Azerbaijan here (2m11yds gnd h'cap ch/soft) earlier this month.

STARFORM: BEST MATE Danger: Sir Rembrandt

3.00 willamhill.com NOVICES' CHASE
Class C (17 fences) 2m7f (8 runners) £8,580

1-12	OUT THE BLACK (8)(C,D5,G)	P J Brennan (3) 94
1	P Hobbs 6/11/12	
2	LIMERICK LEADER (7)(D2,G,S)(B)	
3	P Hobbs 6/11/12	N Fehily 109
4	ALEXANDERHETGREAT (248)(C,D,S)	
5	P Nicholls 6/10/12	R Walsh 21
6	COMBAT DRINKER (31)(D,G)	
7	P Nicholls 6/10/12	S Stronge 21
8	I HEAR THUNDER (15)	
9	R Buckler 6/10/12	P Flynn 95
10	NOBLE BARON (227)(C3,G,S)	
11	C G Cox 10/12	A Thornton 21
12	NO COLLUSION (583)(B,F,G,S)	
13	MISS H NIGHT 8/10/12	T J Murphy 21
14	SONNANT (31)(G)	
15	C Mann 5/10/12	D Crosse (3) 52

Star Betting: 5-2 Out The Black, 3 Alexanderhetgreat, 7-2 Combat Drinker, 33 Sonnant.

2003: Muck Savage, 6-10-12, (N Fehily, 40-1) C Mann, 6 ran.

STARFORM: OUT THE BLACK Danger: Limerick Leader

2.05 LIFE FROM COLOROLL NOVICES' HURDLE
Class E 3m1f (9 runners) £3,513

1-12	ALFIE'S SUN (19)(G)	S Durack 34
1	D Cantillon 5/11/12	
2	AVANTI (F1211)	
3	Dr J Naylor 6/10/12	R Walford (3) 21
4	BLACK CANVAS (22)	
5	K Bailey 6/10/12	J P McNamara 106
6	HEIR TO BE (F209)	
7	Mrs L Wadham 5/10/12	L Aspell 21
8	JET MAGIC (236)	
9	A King 4/10/12	R Thornton 21
10	THEPRIDEFEIREANN (9)(T)	
11	JOJO O'NEILL 5/10/12	M A Fitzgerald 21
12	TWO HIGGS (26)	
13	N Twiston-Davies 6/10/12	C Llewellyn 21
14	WHATS GOOD (19)(T)	
15	K Bailey 6/10/12	R Hobson (3) 21
16	KINGS BAY (251)(S)	
17	H Morrison 5/10/12	J Crowley 21

Star Betting: 7-4 Alfie's Sun, 10-3 Kings Bay, 5 Jet Magic, 8 Heir To Be, 10 Thepridefeireann, 14 Black Canvas, 25 Higgs 26 others.

2003: Keepers Mead, 5-10-12, (R Walford, 3-2) R Alner, 6 ran.

STARFORM: ALFIE'S SUN Danger: Kingsbay

BBC2 2.40 CROWN WALLCOVERINGS HCAP CHASE
(D) (12 fences) 2m (6 runners) £6,734

1-12	JURADO EXPRESS (61)(D3,F,S)	S Thomas (3) 116
1	Miss V Williams 8/11/12	
2	MONTE CRISTO (14)(D2,G,S)(V)	
3	Mrs L Taylor 6/11/12	M Foley 101
4	HORS LA LOI (27)(D3,F,S)	
5	I Williams 8/11/12	D R Dennis 114
6	MARKED MAN (145)(B,F,D,F,G,S)	
7	R Lee 8/11/12	R Thornton 101
8	MASTER REK (23)(D4,F,G,S)	
9	B Ha Ha 9/11/12	B Fenton 93
10	ABALVINO (237)(D3,G,S)(T)	
11	P Webber 10/10/13	T Doyle 119

Star Betting: 5-2 Monte Cristo, 7-2 Hors La Loi, 4 Marked Man, 6 Jurado Express, 8 Abalvino.

2003: No corresponding race.

STARFORM

Callaghan at 11yds (Cheltenham 2m11yds E cond h'cap/good) and, though failing on his most recent start over fences, had earlier shown an aptitude for this game when completing a double with a 3l success giving 4lb to Ladakio (Winchester 2m D nov ch/soft). Master Rek is relatively unexposed over fences winning two from five. He made an encouraging reappearance over hurdles when about 14/41 of 21 to

STARFORM: MONTE CRISTO Danger: Hors La Loi

KEY TO THE CARDS: our racecards are designed to give you a better, easier to understand guide to the races. Brackets after the racecard number indicate the draw in Flat races. Figures in brackets after each horse's name indicate the number of days since the horse last ran. (C) indicates a course winner, (D) indicates a winner over the same distance as today's race, (B) or (V) indicates that the horse wears blinkers or a visor, (T) indicates that the horse wears a tongue strap, * indicates if wearers of blinkers or visor for first time, (F) indicates that the horse is wearing a Cheek Piece, (BF) stands for beaten favourite, (F) is winner on firm going, (G) on good going, (S) on soft going and (A) on the all weather. The figures in the last column after the jockey's name is an exclusive Clockform rating giving a guide to the horse's chance. The highest figure denotes the top rated, which is also pinpointed by a *.

TONY LEWIS

1.20 SAY WHAT YOU SEE	1.20 RACING DEMON
1.50 MONTE CINTO	1.50 MONTE CINTO (nap)
2.25 BEST MATE	2.25 BEST MATE
3.00 OUT THE BLACK	3.00 OUT THE BLACK
3.35 CHARLIES FUTURE	3.35 PARSON PLOUGHMAN
4.05 ROLLO	4.05 ROLLO (nb)

STARFORM 2.05 (Windsor) Alfie's Sun (nb); 2.25 (Exeter) Best Mate (treble); 2.50 (Wolverhampton) Cornish Dancer (nap).

COCKSCOTT 2.25 Sir Rembrandt 2pt win.

COTTELL 1.20 Racing Demon 1.50 Monte Cinto 2.25 Best Mate 3.00 Out The Black 3.35 Barton Baron 4.05 Rollo.

GOING: Chs: Gd-Gd to Sft in Plcs;Hlds: Gd to Sft

JACKPOT & PLACEPOST: First six races.

3.35 willamhill.com NOVICES' HANDICAP CH
Class E (15 fences) 2m3f (9 runners) £4,826

1-12	BACKBEAT (17)(D,G)	R Young (3) 52
1	P Nicholls 6/11/12	
2	CHARLIES FUTURE (23)(D,S)	
3	S Burrough 6/11/12	A Thornton 86
4	PARSON PLOUGHMAN (16)(S)	
5	P Nicholls 9/11/12	R Walsh 72
6	BIG MAX (215)(C,D,F,S)	
7	Miss K George 9/10/12	A Honeyball (3) 65
8	BARON BARON (26)(S)	
9	D Keane 6/10/12	N Fehily 82
10	TOPO (195)	
11	Miss H Night 6/10/12	P J Brennan (3) 87
12	IDEAL JACK (16)(D,F)	
13	G Ham 8/10/12	P Flynn 21
14	KAUSSE DE THAIX (13)	
15	O Sherwood 6/10/12	J A McCarthy 34
16	ROYAL CHINA (12)	
17	Mrs H Night 6/10/12	T J Murphy 103

Star Betting: 7-4 Parson Ploughman, 9-2 Barton Baron, 11-2 Charlies Future, 7 Backbeat, 8 Royal China, 9 Big Max, 10 Topol, 25 others.

2003: No corresponding race.

STARFORM: PARSON PLOUGHMAN Danger: Backbeat

4.05 willamhill.com NOVICES' HANDICAP HURDLE
Class E (11 flights) 2m6f (8 runners) £4,371

1-12	KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	R Walsh 71
1	05-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	
2	005-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	P J Brennan 81
3	005-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	N Fehily 63
4	005-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	W Marston 73
5	005-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	A Thornton 59
6	005-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	A Tinkler (3) 62
7	005-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	Mr R Stephens (7) 62
8	005-263 KAROO (14)(P Nicholls 5/11/12)	J Mogford 49

Star Betting: 5-2 Karoo, 4 Karoo, 4 Grey Shark, 7 Mighty Minster, 12 Valley Warrior, 10 Jolt, 20 He's The Cur'lor, Lancer d'Estrual.

2003: Canny Cool, 6-10-12, (D Doyle, 9-4) R Curtis, 12 ran.

STARFORM: GREY SHARK Danger: Karoo

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12.40 (2m 10f) 1. CHERUB (Mr Alan Berry) 1-3 fav; 2. Beraus (Mr T Woodside 25-1); 3. Ground Rasher (Mr T Greenall 25-1); 4. 111; 10 ran. Jonjo O'Neill, Temple Gudding.
Tote: £140; pl £130, £8.70, £2.60.
£19.10, conf. £39.50.
1.10 (2m 6f) 1. MISS RIDEALIGHT (D Crossie 12-1); 2. Beyond Borders (D Doyle 4-6 fav); 3. Irish Blessing (I Aspell 7-2); 2/fal, 6l, 7 ran. G Brown, Hungerford.
Tote: £140; pl £130, £8.70, £2.60.
£19.10, conf. £39.50.
1.40 (2m 6f) 1. JUMIEGES (D R Dennis 8-1); 2. Ryders Storm (D Elsworth 10-1); 3. YIPON VERT (D Durack 3-1 fav); 4. Hyd. 10 ran. J Williams, Alvechurch.
Tote: £80; pl £260, £1.50, £1.30.
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SUPREME RULES UK

RULE SUPREME returned to action after his French Champion Hurdle win and put up a gritty performance to land the Prior Park Service Station Clonmel Handicap Hurdle yesterday.

Despite having to carry top weight of 12st in the gruelling three-mile contest, the 12-1 shot overcame an absence of 152 days to see off Bennie's Pride by a head.

The pair jumped the last flight together and were locked in a battle as they ploughed through the mud on the run-in, with last season's Royal & SunAlliance Chase winner just getting his head in front on the line. The winner's stablemate, Hedgehunter, led the field for most of the race, but tired leaving the back straight.

Winning trainer Willie Mullins said: "I'm surprised and delighted. Rule Supreme will now take his chance in the Hatton's Grace Hurdle at Fairyhouse on Sunday week."

Stamina
"Jamie (Codd) got on well with him and he was always travelling well. He appreciates a good test of stamina, as he's shown again today."

"He will mix it between hurdles and fences this season and he will be entered in the Gold Cup, but the Stayers' Hurdle (now the Ladbrokes World Hurdle) is a more realistic target at this stage."

"His jumping over fences has never been as good as his jumping over hurdles."

Cashmans have left Rule Supreme at 12-1 for the Cheltenham Festival hurdling prize. VCbet go 20-1 from 40s for the Gold Cup and Hedgehunter remains at 25-1 for the Grand

from TONY LEWIS in Ireland

National. Mullins was not too disappointed with the run of Hedgehunter, considering his main aim for the season is the National at Aintree next April.

He added: "They probably went off a bit too fast for the first mile. The Grand National is his sole main target for this season - that's the race his owner (Trevor Hemmings) wants to win."

"We will probably try to find a suitable hurdle race for his next race, but I don't know where yet."

Rathgar Beau got off the mark for the season when collaring Cloudy Bays late on to take the Grade Two Clonmel Oil Chase.

Sole British raider Impek, in the Best Mate colours, was feeling the pressure as the field turned for home and could finish only fourth, despite being sent off 4-1 favourite of prices.

WINNERS AND PRICES

HEREFORD
12.50 (3m 6f) 1. LIBERMAN (T J Murphy 8-4 fav); 2. Patriarch Express (D Elsworth 9-4 fav); 3. Second Falg (I Aspell 16-1); 2l, 10l, 12 ran. M Pipe, Wellington.
Tote: £336; pl £130, £1.30, £4.70.
exacta: £720, tricast: £161.00, conf. £7.31.
tricast: £432.36. NR: Tango Royal, Monolith.
2.40 (3m 4f) 1. ITS ONLY FINE (P Doyle 8-2); 2. Free To Run (D Elsworth 12-1); 3. Shining Lights (T Murphy 7-2).
Tote: £140; pl £130, £8.70, £2.60.
exacta: £720, tricast: £161.00, conf. £7.31.
tricast: £432.36. NR: Tango Royal, Monolith.
2.40 (3m 4f) 1. ITS ONLY FINE (P Doyle 8-2); 2. Free To Run (D Elsworth 12-1); 3. Shining Lights (T Murphy 7-2).
Tote: £140; pl £130, £8.70, £2.60.
exacta: £720, tricast: £161.00, conf. £7.31.
tricast: £432.36. NR: Tango Royal, Monolith.

QUADROTT: £312.90
PLACEDOT: £1291.60
JACKPOT: not won, £11,832.50 carried over to Exeter.
WINCANTON
1.30 (2m) 1. BEREKARIO (R Thornton 3-1); 2. Mr Boo (P Hild 12-1); 3. Kears Dream (M Fitzgerald 15-8 fav); 2/fal, 16l, 9 ran. S Burrough, Wellington.
Tote: £460; pl £140, £2.10, £1.30.
exacta: £32.20, conf. £37.32, tricast: £23.26.
2.00 (2m 5f) 1. NAS NABIOGH (M Fitzgerald 5-4); 2. Native Daisy (James Davies 3-1); 3. Lady Harriet (N Peahy 50-1).
Tote: £140; pl £130, £8.70, £2.60.
exacta: £720, tricast: £161.00, conf. £7.31.
tricast: £432.36. NR: Tango Royal, Monolith.

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Aussies are in for a shock as Brits raise game

PAUL OVER AS KIWIS TIPS GB



CARRY ON: Paul is tipping the Lions to succeed

ROBBIE PAUL has backed Great Britain to go on to lift the Tri-Nations trophy after watching them hammer his New Zealand side en route to the final.

The Lions meet the Kiwis again at Hull's KC Stadium in tomorrow's dead rubber, having already booked their place in next weekend's final against Australia thanks to two wins from their first three games in the round-robin event.

New Zealand currently prop up the table with just a solitary point from their draw with Australia.

And despite his disappointment, 29-year-old Paul, who plies his trade with Super League side Bradford, admits a win for the Poms would be a real boost for the game.

Success

Paul said: "I think it would be fantastic for the game if Great Britain could come up with a level of success.

"If they walk away with the Tri-Nations competition, it would put Great Britain firmly on the map and enable the game to get that exposure it deserves.

"They've got the team, they've got the individuals, they seem to have the game-plan. However it's going to be tough.

"It could go either way - a bounce of the ball, a

■ by MIKE PLATT

referee's call that's how tight this tournament is."

Despite the Kiwis' early exit from the competition, Paul believes the series has proved a massive success.

"This competition has been the best showcase for the sport," added Paul.

"The only thing I would change would have been to make it a little drier it would have been nice to have this competition slap, bang in the middle of the summer.

Resting

"All of us inside the sport, we love it, so it's a sure thing - but there's not a person I've spoken to outside the sport who doesn't think that this concept has worked."

Paul also believes Lions coach Brian Noble - his club mentor at the Bulls - is right to take the opportunity of resting a few key players ahead of next week's final.

Noble will give Leeds hooker Matt Diskin his debut against the Kiwis, with Paul Sculthorpe, Jamie Peacock and Terry Newton all sitting out.

Paul added: "They've had to play Australia, New Zealand and obviously Australia again, so I'd be very interested to see what side he puts out.

"I wouldn't be surprised if he takes the opportunity to give a couple of his players a rest because this isn't club rugby - this is a very, very intense tournament."



SERIOUS: Keith Long (left) and Matt Skelton

Matt Longs to be No.1

MATT SKELTON can take a massive step closer to the world's heavyweight boxing elite tonight with a successful defence of his British and Commonwealth titles.

The former kick-boxer, who meets Keith Long at London's York Hall, said: "Opportunities come along and you have to make sure you take them.

"Because the heavyweight division is so wide open, the chances are there for

■ by KEVIN FRANCIS

me and I will grasp them - there's no way I am going to mess up."

Since switching ring codes two years ago, Skelton, 35, has notched up 14 wins, including 13 KOs.

His trainer Eugene Maloney said: "He has done everything that has been asked of him."

PREDICTION: Win No.15 on the trot for Skelton, about the sixth round.



GET A G-RIP: Fordham tears up Taylor's photo

I'll turn off The Power

DARTS giant Andy Fordham is ready for a right tear-up when he takes on Phil 'The Power' Taylor in their £100,000 clash on Sunday.

The two world champions come face to face at the Circus Tavern in Purfleet for the mega-bucks clash, with Fordham undaunted by the fact Taylor is clear favourite to land the spoils.

'Viking' Fordham, the reigning BDO champion, said even

■ by KEVIN FRANCIS

the effects of getting over a broken wrist will not prevent him from delivering a KO blow to 11-time PDC king Taylor.

The pub landlord said: "This will sort out just who is the undisputed king of darts and it's a crown I intend to have at the end of Sunday."

THE showdown will be screened live on Sky Box Office on Sunday evening.

INSIDE RUGBY LEAGUE with PETER WILSON

AMONG a near-capacity crowd at Hull's KC Stadium for tomorrow's dead Test between GB and New Zealand will be one Geoff Carr.

For the sake of the future of the Gillette Tri-Nations series, let us hope he is impressed.

Mr Carr, chief executive of the Australian RL, is worried about player burn-out if the event is held annually. "We don't want to kill the guys off," he said.

But GB players like Andrew Farrell and Iestyn Harris have already said what they think - the Tri-Nations is a hit and they want more. Long-term planning has never been rugby league's strong point. Look at

Kick Carr stalling tactics into touch

the state of the World Cup and the abandoned Lions and Kangaroo tours.

A diplomatic "wait-and-see" from our own chief Richard Lewis will keep the lid on a touchy situation. But there are times when it is right to get angry. This is one of them.

PROOF Aussies live in a world of their own. They want a ref to be dragged off and replaced if he is having

a hard time - with former players sitting in the stand as adjudicators!

SHAUN EDWARDS is now officially Wigan's No.1 season-ticket holder - an honorary title to mark his 15 successful years at the club.

That's one way of showing appreciation. Another would have been to find him a top coaching job instead of losing him to London Wasps.

SPORTWORD

- | | |
|---|--|
| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1. Peter, New Zealand athlete who won three Olympic gold medals (5) | 1., Francis, French rugby team (5) |
| 4. Fredi, German singer who played for Bolton on-loan in 2002 (5) | 2., Holyfield, former world heavyweight champion (7) |
| 7. ... Guevara, women's 400m silver medalist at the 2004 Olympics (3) | 3. Plough, former home of Wimbledon FC (4) |
| 8., Formula One world champion on four occasions (5) | 4. Sue, ladies' singles French Open champion in 1976 (6) |
| 9., Athlete, 1995 Grand National winner (5) | 5. Collier, winner of the Champion Hurdle in 1996 (5) |
| 10., Merckx, Tour de France winner on five occasions (4) | 6., Montgomerie, British golfer (5) |
| 11. Mary Lou, gymnastics Olympic champion in 1994 (6) | 7., Andreoli, Formula One world champion in 1978 (5) |
| 14. Greenock based football club (6) | 8., Doncaster, Coca-Cola League football club (6) |
| 15. Ian, Warwickshire batsman (4) | 9., Andreoli, Formula One world champion in 1978 (5) |
| 16. Don, former Leeds United and England manager (5) | 10. Gus, former Middlesex and West Indies batsman (5) |
| 20. Paul, mens 800m Olympic champion in 1988 (5) | 11. Jonathan, former Bristol and England rugby full-back (4) |
| 21. ... Douglas, Celtic and Scotland goalkeeper (3) | 12. See 23 across. |
| 22. Jesse, athlete who won four Olympic gold medals in 1936 (5) | |
| 23. and 19 down. Home of 13 down (5,3) | |



5 FOR FUN

- Who recently resigned as manager of the Scotland football team?
- Which England footballer, Welsh mother, was born and raised in Canada and has a residential qualification to play for Germany?
- What 'first' in golf did Canadian amateur Ross Somerville achieve in 1934?
- Which horse racing track, founded in 1711, didn't stage its first jump meeting until April 1985?
- On which British golf course would you find bunkers called Cottage, Sutherland and the Principal's Nose?

ANSWERS: See Page 75

CALL 0905 072 3266 FOR TODAY'S SOLUTION. Calls cost 75p per min from a BT landline. Turn to Page 75 for Thursday's answers.



WHITE: Challenge

Jules' great White hope

■ by DEAN WILSON

ENGLAND prop Julian White has vowed to put in a vintage performance against South Africa to keep rival Phil Vickery out of the side.

Vickery, who is still working his way to fitness after a back operation, suffered a nasty bang to the head against Wasps last week.

And that has given White the chance to lay down a marker and prove he is a first-choice England front-rower on merit alone.

White, 31, already has 25 caps to his name but the Leicester Tiger knows he needs to put in an epic performance against the powerful Springboks if he is to keep hold of his England jersey.

White said: "Vickery has been injured for a while now and I'm lucky enough to be starting. Now I've got to put in the consistent performances to prove I'm here on my own merit."

"I've got to lay down a marker against the Springboks."

Perform

"If I want to stay in the starting line-up for England then it is games like this where you've got to perform."

"If you don't perform at this level, then you're not good enough."

"South Africa is a huge challenge and we know all our basics will be tested. Lineouts and scrums will be key and we've got to get it right."

"It's time I took a leading role in the side and led by example."

"Each game you want to do that and while I'm here with a chance to keep the jersey I have to make the most of it."

White moved to the Tigers at the start of the season and is enjoying his rugby more than before.

But he knows the new England regime will still expect a lot from him.

He added: "I'm really enjoying the new set-up with England and moving to Leicester was the best thing I could have done."

"Andy Robinson is very passionate about the game and he brings it on to the pitch. He wants to play an exciting style and we've got to take it out there."

"We're under no illusions, it's going to be a huge hurdle this week and we've just got to go out there and do it."

EXCLUSIVE: England hero Lawrence

IT WAS HELL... BUT I LOVED IT

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO says he has done an Alan Shearer. Quit international sport at the top, retired at his peak.

And he won't feel a pang of regret when England run out at Twickenham tomorrow to face old rivals South Africa. Dallaglio doesn't do regrets. Why should he? For this mountain of a man has broken the back of the game by winning everything.

Like Shearer, he has done it without fuss, been the ultra-professional and, one day – probably in two years when his contract with Wasps expires – he will pump something back into the game.

Dallaglio calls rugby brutal, a sport you can only compare with boxing.

"Boxers put their life at risk when they step into the ring but only do it two or three times a year," said Dallaglio.

"They also do it on their own. Rugby players do it every week with the trust of others around them. It's brutal yet beautiful."

Terrific

"It's the ultimate team game. A sport when you rely on others. If they don't do it, you can't."

"You have to get yourself to an emotional level for a street fight, a battle, to protect yourself, express yourself and win. You have to inflict wonderful talent and power on your opponent, together."

"If someone climbs Everest on their own, they have a terrific sense of achievement. But who do they share it with? Do it with a mate and you can relive it 15 years later."

"That is rugby. You sit in the dressing-room afterwards and look at all the distorted faces, not the faces that you went out with. There is often silence because you are knackered and you look at each other and know it's job done. The physical debris is all around you."

"I have been doing this for more than 12 years. So when someone says to me, 'Surprised you're quitting England', I reply 'Hold on a minute, I've been there for a long time, made the sacrifice'."

"We went into our offices on a Monday morning before professional rugby."

"I had meetings covered in stitches and blood but you can't go on at this level like that."

Dallaglio added: "I have decided to walk away from England because it's time."

"The more I asked myself the question, I came up with the same answer."

Selfish

"I was lying on a beach in the summer and it was the first time for years I had real quality moments and I could analyse things."

"I'm 32 and if I knew I would be around for the next World Cup then I would have gone on."

"But it was time to give someone else a chance. Maybe I have been a little selfish yet I know it's right."

There is nothing he has



PRESSURE: The strain and emotion shows as Lawrence Dallaglio bursts into tears after England's defeat in Australia

BRIAN WOOLNOUGH'S B-I-G INTERVIEW

not won in his game, culminating last year in the World Cup with England and the Double of the Heineken Cup and the Zurich Premiership with his beloved Wasps.

Dallaglio relives his career and picks some of his best moments in a new DVD called *Balls and Mauls*.

But no doubt he will still have more to come before he hangs up his boots.

He would love to give the British Lions one more go next summer in New Zealand under Sir Clive Woodward and acknowledges Woodward as the man who made him a better player, who took play-

ing for England on to a new level.

"I was not surprised when Clive announced he was standing down (from the England job) because when I went to him with my decision he was honest about his own situation."

"It was the only thing he could do. When he took on the Lions his position as England coach became untenable."

"He could not do both jobs and the RFU should have seen it earlier and told him to take a sabbatical."

"We had all got caught up in the joy of winning the World Cup."

"It doesn't happen very often and it became a

country thing. Lovely moments."

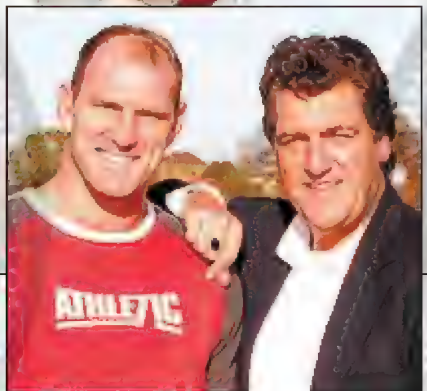
"Clive kept saying, 'Forget about the World Cup' but it was difficult."

Woodward is now linked with football and Dallaglio gives this insight into what he might achieve.

Level

"We didn't see him in a tracksuit coaching that many times yet his legacy to English rugby is he took it to a professional level, like no-one before," added Dallaglio.

"He went down the specialist route. He employed a specialist kicker for Jonny Wilkinson – a specialist for every aspect of



RELAXED: Dallaglio meets Star man Wooly

play and physical feeling." England football coach Sven Goran Eriksson has a similar method.

"Yes, but Clive employed the right coaches," joked Dallaglio.

"I love football yet it amazes me. They have so many players worth millions and don't give enough attention to detail. **"They are not prepared to spend enough on getting the best out of the individual."**

"Clive created a structure where the players had no excuses. He gave us every opportunity and made you feel special."

"It is like the Roy Keane thing when he complained

Manchester United was one level and representing Republic of Ireland a step down."

"Clive made sure playing for England was the best feeling in the world. More professional than any club and I don't think that exists in football."

"Do the England footballers feel they are walking into the greatest environment in the world? We did."

Clearly this is the football direction for Woodward... organising, planning, creating winners.

Dallaglio is also proud that rugby, unlike football, is not dominated by three or four clubs. A wage cap

Players put their lives at risk every week... the physical

Dallaglio on the brutal world of top rugby



has created the competition and he explained: "Rugby has a financial grip on itself."

After Woody, England is now in the hands of Andy Robinson.

"Andy has been the coach for the last four years and no doubt will make a few tweaks to do things his way," said Dallaglio.

"He has been virtually running the team and will take the best of Clive and use his own input."

Wish

Dallaglio won 73 caps, had two stints as captain and quit not long after replacing Martin Johnson as skipper. "I thought of going at the end of the World Cup," he admitted.

"Jonno had indicated to me he was retiring but I thought it would be wrong to go half-way through the season."

"I wish Clive had fought to keep the side together a

bit longer, until the end of the season, and rebuild slowly rather than the surgery needed now."

"I don't think people realise the sacrifices you have to make and I have got a young family I want to see more of. I want to have some fun, like put a pair of skis on for the first time in ten years."

"On the pitch you see the gloss, what goes into getting to that level is hard work."

"When I was 18 I was told by England I wasn't good enough. You have to pick yourself up and get stuck in again."

Dallaglio, of course, names the World Cup as the pinnacle of his career.

"We were a team of hard nosed, experienced individuals at their prime."

"Sacrifices were made and it took years of dedication."

"We now have to be patient with the new

England team. The fans must not expect the same again straight away."

His next ambition is to defend the European Cup with Wasps and then help take his club on to a new level, perhaps as a member of the board.

He added: "I have been lucky to be involved with everything in my career and can take the memories with me, especially those of England team-mates you went to war with."

Spirit

"I will never forget the camaraderie, the team spirit and sitting with them after the battle was won."

"I know that in 15 years I can meet them again and share that feeling, an emotion I will never forget."

"For the rest of my life I will never forget the sheer physical adrenalin of winning a big rugby match."

WIN Balls and Mauls DVD

LAWRENCE DALLAGLIO has done the lot in the world of rugby.

An incredible career culminated in **THAT** famous victory in Sydney before he took over the England captaincy from Martin Johnson.

He is still starring for Wasps but has taken time out to present a new DVD **Balls and Mauls**.

Available now, it includes some unforgettable highlights, with tries from such greats as Jonah Lomu, Jeremy Guscott and Gareth Edwards.

There are also some crunching challenges from the likes of Johnny Wilkinson, while there are also a fair few punches thrown as Dallaglio takes a look back at famous bust-ups and brawls. This

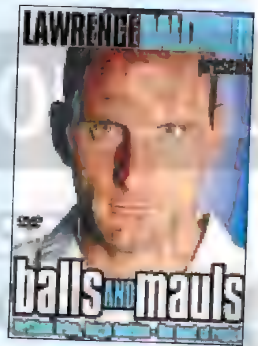
DVD has got the lot and we have 10 copies to give away. So for your chance to win a copy, just answer this simple question:

Who replaced Lawrence Dallaglio as England skipper and then got injured?

Telephone your answer to **0905 072 0814**, not forgetting to leave your name and address. Or text **DSRUGBY** followed by your answer, name and address to **88833**.

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Lines close at midnight tomorrow. Normal Star rules apply.



debris is there all around

IT'S A DANNY OLD GAME

Read Chief Football Writer Danny

Fullbrook every Friday

Snarling Fergie's final fling



FRACTIONOUS, controversial, dedicated, snarling – and successful.

All words to describe Sir Alex Ferguson.

There are three others you could easily use – simply a legend.

This may not have been the best season so far for the son of a Govan shipbuilder, but when you look back on his sensational career at Old Trafford you can see that he is one of a kind.

Milestone

There is no suggestion that he is about to pack up and leave, as he now enters his rolling contract desperate for more trophies.

But as he fast approaches the milestone of 1,000 games in charge of Manchester United, it is about time to put his wonderful achievements into perspective.

He will reach that breathtaking landmark next Tuesday when United take on French side Lyon at home in the Champions League.

Fergie may have been criticised of late as his beloved United have started

to fall behind Arsenal and Chelsea and critics have chipped away at his reputation.

But Fergie will only really be fully appreciated when he steps down as the Tsar of Old Trafford.

He may be hated and castigated by fans of other clubs, but he is incredibly popular and respected in the world of football.

And the greatest thing he has from a United point of view is loyalty, to the club and to his players.

Fergie is more committed to United than any of the hardest nuts on the Streteford End, and would go to the ends of the earth to protect what he considers his own.

Nobody connected with the club could have envisaged what they had unleashed when Fergie was given the manager's job in November 1986.

Now 18 years later, his success and lifespan at the biggest club in the world will never be matched. Just listen to

Don't kid yourself Wayne

WAYNE ROONEY will be excused his disrespectful slight to the late Emlyn Hughes.

He will return to the fold of the Manchester United dressing-room, and excuses will be found for him ripping off his black armband after his bad-tempered display in Spain.

It will be argued that he is still young and trying to handle the pressure. Ignorant might be a better word for Rooney at times – but

youth should not be used as a sympathy card.

Arsenal and Spain's teen sensation Cesc Fabregas is still only 17 and taking the Premiership by storm – but there is no sign of youthful petulance within him.

Of course, people and players are not the same. But by comparison Fabregas is a saint compared to Rooney's sinner, and both are incredibly talented footballers.

forget the likes of Bryan Robson, Steve Bruce, Paul Ince, Mark Hughes, Denis Irwin and Peter Schmeichel.

Then of course there is Roy Keane and the legendary Eric Cantona, as well as the lethal strikeforce of Teddy Sheringham, Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke which

helped win the Champions League. **But it is the home-grown talent that was truly the bedrock of his sides, and Alan Hansen's jibe that "you never win anything with kids" was proved so emphatically wrong.**

The reason that there will never be another Fergie is because there will never be another generation of players that are so synonymous with a manager, the club and the city.

The Neville brothers Gary and Phil, Nicky Butt and Paul Scholes are all local, while they were complemented

through the youth ranks by David Beckham and Ryan Giggs. It may be his loyalty to Giggs and Scholes which could prove Fergie's ultimate downfall as he may stick by two brilliant club servants for too long because both players look like their careers are on the wane.

The problem of eventually replacing Keane may also be something Fergie never manages to solve.

But United fans should not care less, because in the last 18 years they have been treated to a wonderful roller-coaster of excitement and success straight out of fantasyland.

Balance

It all culminated on that balmy night in Barcelona in 1999 when two late, late goals finally gave Fergie the European title he craved.

The balance of power may have shifted slightly in the Premiership to within the M25.

But one more great European Hurrah at United would be fitting for a manager whom every football fan in the country should take just a few seconds to admire.



Rangers v Celtic

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SETANTA SPORTS

Baros out for month

LIVERPOOL suffered another striker stunner last night when Milan Baros was ruled out for a month.

The Czech international, who has scored 10 goals in 18 games for Liverpool this season, suffered a hamstring injury after just 15 minutes of his country's World Cup qualifying win over Macedonia on Wednesday.

Move

"Milan has had a scan and we anticipate he will be out for up to three to four weeks," said a Liverpool spokesman last night.

Manager Rafael Benítez's striking resources had already been stretched by Michael Owen's eye-of-season move to Real Madrid and the broken leg suffered by £14m record signing Djibril Cisse. Now he must muddle through until the New Year. The injury crisis has left Sheffield

■ by BILL THORNTON

United's interest in reserve striker Neil Mellor on hold, with the 22-year-old set to travel with the Reds to Middlesbrough tomorrow.

The injury to Baros has taken the gloss off skipper Steven Gerrard's recovery from a broken metatarsal.

Gerrard tested his fitness with a 45-minute run-out for the reserves on Monday and will travel to The Riverside, although he is unlikely to be rushed straight back after two months out of action.

RUUD Van Nistelrooy has reassured Manchester United he will be fit for tomorrow's lunchtime date with Charlton.

The Dutch striker limped out of Holland's midweek World Cup qualifier in Andorra with a hip injury but arrived in Manchester insisting: "It is just a knock, nothing serious."



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SHAME IN SPAIN:

KICK

Act now against racist scum – or the game's dead

MADRID on Wednesday night has to be used as a turning point for football right across the world.

Racism has no part in society and FIFA, UEFA and all authorities must join as one to act against the morons and scum from Spain.

What we saw and heard throughout England's 1-0 defeat dragged the game's 10-year fight against racism almost back to square one.

Appalling

It was sickening, shameful... and the worst aspect was the failure of Spanish officials – particularly ignorant coach Luis Aragones – to condemn the actions of the thousands of locals who targeted Arsenal's Ashley Cole and Shaun Wright-Phillips of Manchester City with their appalling behaviour.

What Wright-Phillips had to endure was the worst I have heard anywhere and we must wait to



by BRIAN WOOLNOUGH
Chief Sports Writer

see if it has damaged him psychologically. To have thousands of people screaming abuse at you because of the colour of your skin is totally unacceptable.

City coach Kevin Keegan needs to do his greatest man-management job on the youngster who was suddenly and unexpectedly thrust into his worst nightmare.

England coach Sven Goran Eriksson was stunned and can be praised for ignoring the taunts by sending on Jermain Defoe when the baiting was at its worst.

Eriksson said: "The day I don't send a player on – or take one off – because of the colour of his skin... then football is finished, it is over. Others have won."

"I could not believe what was happening, it was so bad. What these people are doing is taking the fun away from football."

"To be booed when you are not playing well is bad enough – to be jeered for other reasons is awful, simply awful."

"I thought I had seen the last of this four years ago when I was the coach at Lazio. Obviously not."

"I was pleased with Wright-Phillips and Defoe when they went on, considering what was going on around them."

Ghastly

"The sad thing about this is that football is the loser. It is not football when it comes to this."

The signs of the trouble ahead were there when the ghastly Aragones made his recent racist remark about Arsenal's Thierry Henry and followed it by going berserk at English reporters over the subject of racism on Tuesday.

England's black Under-21 players were abused that night, while the English national anthem was drowned out by whistling and booing Spanish fans.

The scale of the racism, however, took everyone by surprise. Yet arrogant Aragones



TARGET: Ashley Cole led in centre

Coach refuses to say sorry for outburst



'EM OUT!

MAKING A POINT: But England's anti-racism message failed to register with a number of Spain fans



RACISM IN FOOTBALL

refused to criticise his nation's fans. He said: "My conscience is clear and I have no comment to make."

He was then asked if he condoned what went on. "No comment" again was his reply. "The banner at kick-off said what we have to say and that's it."

Not once did he show sorrow or regret, not once did he apologise. Here is someone who is allowing racism to run out of control, while others are doing so much to try to beat it.

Aragones should be punished, along with the Spanish football authorities. Drastic action is needed and we are getting to the point when a coach

will march his players off in the ultimate protest.

Louis van Gaal went close when he was manager of Ajax, following sickening treatment towards three of his players - Clarence Seedorf, Patrick Kluijvert and Edgar Davids.

He went as far as telling UEFA there would be no game if it happened again.

Problems

Spain should be told to play their next three matches behind closed doors and see how that dramatic loss of revenue affects their attitude.

A fine is no good, nor a warning. England, of course, have problems of their own and no one is

preaching from a position of power.

The threat of being kicked out of competitions because of hooliganism still hangs over the FA.

Yet just imagine what would have happened had Wednesday's so-called friendly been at home.

We would have been expelled by UEFA and FIFA already.

The FA are committed to their campaign to beat racism and it was ironic that on two giant screens ahead of Wednesday night's kick-off at the Bernabeu, an anti-racist message was pumped out. It was in English, not in Spanish.

Meanwhile, journalists sitting in the front row of the press box were spat at by Spanish fans as the crowd became locked in a frenzied time-warp of yesterday's values.

England have experienced racism in Yugoslavia and Slovakia recently but nothing as bad as Wednesday night in Spain.

Yesterday, the FA were in regular touch with FIFA and UEFA demanding action. It has to be taken, and quickly. The authorities must make an example of Spain.

Weak Spanish FA to blame says Rio

RIO FERDINAND last night blamed the Spanish FA for the racist abuse aimed at England's black players in Madrid.

Ferdinand believes their failure to punish coach Luis Aragones for his racist slur about Arsenal striker Thierry Henry was the catalyst for the sickening incidents.

The Manchester United ace said: "I don't know what the Spanish FA are going to do about it but their manager was never punished for the racist remarks he made last month. "Maybe that sent out a signal to the fans they would get away unpunished if they did the same thing. The best way to have dealt with it would have been to get a win and ram it down their throats. Unfortunately we couldn't do that."



SHOCKED: Neville fury

Neville: If it was us we'd get ban

by DAVID WOODS

ANGRY Gary Neville last night claimed England would be hit with a ban if our fans racially abused players like the Spanish did in Madrid.

Neville said any wrongdoing involving England always provokes widespread condemnation - the likes of which never seems to be dished out to other countries.

"The English seem to be treated differently when it comes to certain issues in football, there is absolutely no doubt about that," said the Manchester United defender.

"You can go down the last three or four years of hooliganism, racism and drugs and our players seem to entice comments from the highest level.

Surge

"I don't see these people making comments about players from other countries which are doing things wrong."

But hours after Neville's interview, FIFA president Sepp Blatter declared that football must "eradicate this scourge" of racism.

A FIFA statement said: "FIFA are concerned about the latest surge of racism in football and harshly condemn these incidents."

Neville admitted he had been shocked by the racial abuse directed at English players. "You don't expect that in Spain," he said. "I thought they were an ally of ours. "I can't understand it. Where it comes from, I don't know. "All I can say is that if it was England, we would probably be chucked out of the competitions."



TARGET: England sub Shaun Wright-Phillips

SHAME IN SPAIN: Teenage hot-head says sorry



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don't go overboard about the armband, rooney snapped no disrespect 2 emlyn but men die every day **Gaz**

Rooney's a disgrace, drop this petulant child from the red england game, grow up son its an honour 2 play 4 ur country not a god given rite. **spidey**

Well done sir alex uve turned rooney into a proper moaning manc thug **parker true blue**

glad 2 c lrg son teaching rooney the art cheating, respect-attitude smt. **Daz nufc**

what rooney did against spain was disgraceful, just a spoilt little rich kid should b left out of next squad and im a red obey

WOT IS APNIN A 19YR OLD BRAT WHO THROWS OFF A BLACK ARM BAND 4A PRO WHO PUT HIM 2SHAME SORTDABRAT. **ANON**

WAYNE (SHRECK) ROONEY IS AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE 4 WAY E PLAYED N WAT E

DONE WITH HIS BLACK ARMBAND E IS A SPOILT LITTLE KID. **PHILL ROWLANDS**

fine that t'tt rooney 4 throwing away black armband so little respect **RW Kent**

After last night Rooney should NEVER wear an England shirt again. **TC.**

rooney was a disgrace in madrid! grow up quickly and show wat a true pro u really r! smthly 4 england! **phil, hfc**

Emlyn Hughes was worth at least 100 Wayne Rooneys. C'mon on Sven drop this disrespectful thug 4 good. No apologies accepted. **ROBIN**

rooney is scum for throwing that black arm band away he'll never be half the player emlyn was rip crazy horse. **danny lfc**

Rooney's a disgrace. First the S'N, nxt MAN U, now the armband. Should never show face in city again! **PAULY LFC**

rooney ur a disgrace no respect 4 emlyn u shud b ashamed of yself **villa kev**

Did Rooney not realise what the arm band he was wearing was when he threw it off when been taken off, grow up son! **Karlos Haxey, L.F.C.**



BATTLE OF BERNABEU: Wayne Rooney loses his rag and has to be dragged away by his skipper David Beckham

STOP ROOON



SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON spent yesterday trying to discover exactly what made Wayne Rooney go loony in Spain.

Rooney and racism made Wednesday night in Madrid a depressing place for all decent followers of football, and something must be done about both.

Eriksson says he will allow Rooney to hide behind his 19 years but that is not good enough.

Rooney for 42 minutes on Wednesday was a loose cannon, a feuding, frustrated teenager, running out of control because he couldn't get his way. He enjoys the spotlight his unique talent brings yet he has obvious responsibilities and we can't keep saying 'He's only a boy'.

Eriksson tried desperately to defend him when he said: "I don't know why he reacted like he did and he has apologised to everyone for the way he came off the pitch, the whole thing."

"He must learn from this and will learn. To be frank I am not that worried about it because I don't think it will happen again."

"What he must do is use his temperament in the right way."

"In many ways it will be good for him because he knows it must not be repeated. His age is an excuse for me and life goes on. He has to learn."

Temper

"What I am more interested in is why it happened and why was there so much hot temper between the two sides? It was certainly not a friendly."

Eriksson spoke to the temperamental star on England's chartered plane home from Madrid in the early hours of Thursday morning.

It was more, however, like a father and son chat rather than someone reading the riot act.

We wait to see if the penny has dropped with this young man who courts controversy just as easily as he finds space in crowded penalty areas and scores goals.

The anger had been building inside him following the heavy early challenge on Joaquín, the push into the back of goalkeeper

by **BRIAN WOOLNOUGH**

er Iker Casillas and feuds with other Spaniards. It then erupted as he stomped off the pitch when Eriksson had enough after 42 minutes.

Rooney tore at anything he could get his hands on, the tape protecting a ring and the black armband all the England players were wearing out of respect to Emlyn Hughes, who died last week and whose funeral was carried out only a few hours before kick off.

The armband was the ultimate sin by Rooney, showing a lack of self-control and respect.

Eriksson, of course, saw it differently: "I don't know whether it is the first time it has happened with England, but he was frustrated."

"I don't believe he thought whether the armband was black or white, he just did what he did out of frustration."

Flashes

"This is the first time we have seen Wayne react this way with England. There have been flashes before, but nothing like this. It was his first time in a stadium like that and he is normally cool."

Eriksson's decision to haul Rooney off before he was sent off or caused a riot was to his credit.

He could have waited a few minutes until half-time and allowed the sub-

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to England for his night of madness



MADNESS IN MADRID: Spanish defender Michel Salgado gives Wayne Rooney a mouthful before the England starlet is substituted

RAGE OR HE'LL BLOW THE LOT

Sven and Ferg must stop him doing a Gazza

stitution to look like any other but chose to make an example of this precocious talent.

That alone should act as a lesson to him and we hope it does. Rooney, however, is Gazza without the smile and the signs are not good.

He went looking for trouble too many times against Spain, his opponents going easily when they knew that England's most dangerous forward was lacking self control.

Mood

"There was some play-acting by the Spanish," said Eriksson.

Rooney's mood was typical of England's performance... strained, ugly, no rhythm. They simply did not produce the things they are good at.

"We forgot to play football and that is bad for us," added Eriksson.

There was not one impressive performance, with the defence pulled apart and nothing else where.

David Beckham was poor, Nicky Butt awful, Frank Lampard ineffective and Michael Owen without service. It was Ashley Cole's

worst game for England while Gary Neville was more concerned about his on-going war with Jose Reyes of Arsenal.

Everything got to them and, when Greek referee Georges Kasnaferis gave a penalty, Beckham led the entire team in dissent against the decision.

It was a shameful night in so many ways, not one to be proud of.

"I was so disappointed, especially in first half," added Eriksson.

"I was surprised we lost our heads and our shape was too long. We were nervous and it was not football."

Rooney must realise and learn quickly that he has so much to lose over the next decade.

Glory and riches wait for him but it will disappear just as quickly if he is not careful.

His manager at Old Trafford, Sir Alex Ferguson, must also help him through his crisis for he needs guidance.

What we saw on Wednesday night were signs that here is a kid who has too much too soon, and without a clue how to handle it.



SPAIN IN THE NECK: Rooney is booked

FANS IN A FURY OVER ARMBAND

LIVERPOOL and England fans have branded Wayne Rooney a "disgrace" after he chucked away his black armband in a fit of temper.

The 19-year-old Manchester United striker was substituted during England's clash with Spain after receiving a yellow card.

But as he left the pitch he ripped off the band, which players were wearing as a mark of respect for former England captain Emlyn Hughes.

Les Lawson, chairman of the Liverpool Supporters' Association, said Rooney should publicly apologise for his actions.

He said: "I was shocked at what he did. It's disgraceful. Wayne showed a complete lack of respect for a former England captain and a football legend."

"I know he was disappointed that he was being substituted, but he needs to learn some manners."

"He needs to make a public apology and not hide behind his captain and his manager."

Nappy

Hughes' former Liverpool team-mates also slammed his stupidity.

Supersub David Fairclough said: "Emlyn's funeral was a very emotional day for all the players. It was a stupid thing to do."

Defender Tommy Smith added: "He was obviously not playing up to standard and was frustrated. He's probably regretting it now."

Another Liverpool legend, Ian St John, blasted: "Rooney had to be taken off to have his nappy changed. He was just in a huge sulk."

"I don't think for one minute he meant to disrespect Emlyn's memory, but I think he should say sorry. It would be a nice gesture for him to donate something to the charity set up in Emlyn's name."

You've gotta learn raps Al

From Back Page
and bully them, but he should do it in a good way.

"He was petty but the saving grace for him is that he is still young and can learn."

"You will not always get your own way on the pitch and when you don't you have to keep your cool and your discipline."

"Wayne will get criticised but he'll have to realise that not everything will always be rosy in the garden."

"It will be a bigger problem if he does not learn from his mistakes."

"Wayne has to hold his hands up and say, 'I was wrong and I apologise' and learn from it."

"He will learn the hard way. The problem was he was not getting a kick in the game and he wants the ball all the time. They weren't allowing him a kick."

"He was not playing well and he was frustrated and angry and he showed his dissent in the wrong way."

Meanwhile, current England captain David Beckham last night defended Rooney claiming he is still just a teenager and has much to learn.

Wrong

Beckham's own tendency to see the red mist descend was vividly illustrated six years ago when he was sent off against Argentina for kicking out at Diego Simeone - effectively ruining England's chances of winning the World Cup.

And he insisted it would be wrong to come down on Rooney.

Becks said: "What people have got to realise is he's only 19. He looks like a man and holds himself like a man, but sometimes things like that happen because he's so young."

"It's not about cutting it out of his game completely because that's part of what he's about and what makes him a great player and loved by so many people."

"By experience, and with the people he has around him, he will calm it down."

"A few players had a word with him on the pitch towards the end of the first half. I think he was upset coming off and it was frustrating for him."

Cole KO for Real

From Back Page
deal with the abuse - Arsenal legend and his stepfather Ian Wright.

That is the view of England midfielder Carlton Palmer, who played alongside Wright for his country.

Palmer knows that the former Highbury hotshot is the right man to help him through it.

He said: "Ian's reaction to anything like that was always the best - he would just stick the ball in the back of the net."

"That is the best way to answer things like that."

SHAME IN SPAIN 1

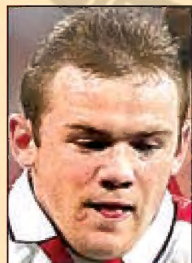
Shearer's Roon rap

by DAVID WOODS

ALAN SHEARER has blasted Wayne Rooney for his night of shame in Madrid.

The 19-year-old striker was substituted by Sven Goran Eriksson to save him from a red card after a series of petulant clashes in England's 1-0 defeat against Spain.

The Manchester United hotshot apologised to his team-mates and coach afterwards – but former England skipper Shearer has demanded that Rooney goes further than that.



ROONEY: In firing line

Reckless

The Newcastle star wants Rooney to publicly apologise for his reckless tackling and hurling his black armband to the ground as he left the pitch just before half-time.

Shearer said: "He is a great player with great ability. He does push people around."

Turn to Page 79

SHAME IN SPAIN 2

RACE ROW KO'S COLE REAL DEAL



I'D BE MAD TO MOVE: Racist taunts have put Cole off Real move

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A TOP-SECRET Real Madrid plan to prise England ace Ashley Cole from Arsenal has been left in tatters by Spain's racist louts.

The Spanish giants had earmarked Cole as the man to take over from Brazilian left-back Roberto Carlos, who is now 31.

They made discreet moves after learning the 23-year-old has been resisting approaches from the Gunners about a new contract.

Glamour

His current deal runs out in 2007, but Highbury chief Arsene Wenger wants to tie him down to a far longer one as part of his blueprint to stay at the top of the English

EXCLUSIVE

By DAVID WOODS & DANNY FULLBROOK

game. Cole, who picked up his 36th cap in the 1-0 defeat by Spain in Madrid, has been putting off talks because he is tempted by the option to play abroad – and fancied the glamour of the Bernabeu.

But now a move has been scuppered because friends of Cole say he is unlikely to

forget the level of abuse he suffered from Spanish fans on Wednesday night.

Cole and Shaun Wright-Phillips were both subjected to appalling monkey chants by Spain's racist fans, and the abuse clearly affected the Arsenal star, with him having one of his worst games for England.

Doubt

"Real Madrid definitely wanted him – they think he's the best left-back in the world," said a pal of Cole's. "But you have to doubt whether he'll consider going there after what happened on Wednesday night."

At least Manchester City winger Wright-Phillips has an ideal mentor to help him

Turn to Page 79